

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 22 have been amended. Claims 3 and 5 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Hendricks, et al. (US 6,463,585) patent. The Examiner has also rejected applicant's claims 4-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hendricks, et al. patent in view of the Wehmeyer, et al. (US 5,867,226) patent. Applicant's claims 9 and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hendricks, et al. patent in view of the Wehmeyer, et al. patent and further in view of the Sullivan (US 6,591,421) patent. Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hendricks, et al. patent, claims 17-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hendricks, et al. patent in view of the Sullivan patent, and claims 19-20 and 22-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hendricks, et al. patent in view of the Ismail, et al. (US 6,614,987) patent. Claims 21 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hendricks, et al. patent in view of the Ismail, et al. patent and in further view of the Wehmeyer, et al. patent.

Applicant has cancelled applicant's claim 5, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejections with respect to this claim. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claim 1 to include the features of its dependent claim 3 which has been canceled. Independent claims 16-19 and 22 have also been amended to include features as recited in canceled claim 3. With respect to applicant's independent claims, as so amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 now recites a processing means for executing a plurality of processes, wherein the plurality of processes include at least one of processes of program record reservation, listening/viewing reservation, program detailed information display, and program data reproduction. Claim 1 further recites assigning a unique code to a program corresponding to the process to be executed to the program and controlling the processing means to execute the plurality of processes in accordance with the code assigned. Independent claim 16 recites a processing method in which each program is assigned a unique code corresponding to the process to be executed to the program and executing a plurality of processes in accordance with the assigned code, wherein the plurality of processes include at least one of processes of program record reservation, listening/viewing reservation, program detailed information display, and program data reproduction.

Applicant's independent claim 17 and 18 recites a processing system and printing apparatus which include recitations as stated above for the system of claim 1. Claims 19 and 22 also recite signal processing apparatuses in which a unique code is assigned to each of a plurality of programs corresponding to the process to be executed to the program, wherein the process includes at least one of processes of program record reservation, listening/viewing reservation, program detailed information display, and program data reproduction, and controlling a recording operation in accordance with the assigned code.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Examiner has argued that the limitations of "processing means for executing a plurality of processes" and "control means for controlling said processing means to execute the plurality of processes in accordance with the code assigned by said assigning means" are met by the set top box 220 of the Hendricks, et al. patent, and that the limitation of "assigning

means for automatically assigning each program with a unique code corresponding to the process to be executed to the program" is met by the systems shown in Figures 4 and 5 of the Hendricks, et al. patent. In this regard, the Examiner states that "an alpha-numeric code is assigned to each program", that the "code identifies the category of program, the menu in which the program should be displayed, its time(s) of transmission, and the position on the menu that the program should be displayed, and that the "examiner interprets the placement of the program in a certain menu to be the process executed by the processing and control means in the STB 220". Finally, the Examiner has also stated that the Hendricks, et al. patent discloses "a program detailed information display" citing the text at Col. 23, lines 36-44, of the of the Hendricks, et al. patent.

Applicant has reviewed the cited portions of the Hendricks, et al. patent and respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's arguments. In particular, the Hendricks, et al. patent does not teach or suggest assigning a unique code to each of a plurality of programs corresponding to the process to be executed to the program, wherein the process includes at least one of processes of program record reservation, listening/viewing reservation, program detailed information display, and program data reproduction, and controlling a recording or processing operation in accordance with the assigned code.

As above-indicated, in the Hendricks, et al. patent the code assigned to each program identifies the category of program, the menu in which the program should be displayed, its time(s) of transmission, and the position on the menu that the program should be displayed. Moreover, in Col. 23, lines 36-44 of the Hendricks, et al. patent, the patent states that a program description in the menu may be given following the program's coded description or may be communicated following the four hours of programming information in the menu, that

program descriptions of more than one-half hour need not be repeated, and that the video description code informs the set up terminal whether there is a still or live video available to advertise the program.

Thus, the codes in the Hendricks, et al. patent do not correspond to a process to be performed to a program where the process includes at least one of processes of program record reservation, listening/viewing reservation, program detailed information display, and program data reproduction. The Examiner has admitted as much by arguing that the each code in the Hendricks, et al. patent corresponds to the process of placing its associated program in a particular menu.

Moreover, in the Hendricks, et al. patent, there is no unique code assigned to the displaying of the program description for a particular program. Instead a program description is displayed for all programs for which a description is available, irrespective of the code assigned to a program.

Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 1, 16-19 and 22, and their respective dependent claims, in reciting in one form or another assigning a unique code to each of a plurality of programs corresponding to a process to be executed to a program, wherein the process includes at least one of processes of program record reservation, listening/viewing reservation, program detailed information display, and program data reproduction, and controlling a recording or processing operation in accordance with the assigned code, patentably distinguish over the Hendricks, et al. patent. The cited Sullivan patent, Ismail, et al. and Wehmeyer, et al. patents add nothing to the Hendricks, et al. patent to change this conclusion.

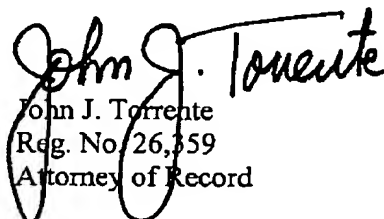
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: June 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

ROBIN BLECKER & DALEY
330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017
T (212) 682-9640


John J. Torrente
Reg. No. 26,359
Attorney of Record